

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-12 and 24-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are amended. Claims 2 and 4 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 3, 5 and 6 are amended solely to maintain proper dependency from claim 1. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at least in original claims 2 and 4. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 25 recite allowable subject matter and that claims 8-12 are allowed. Independent claim 1 is amended to include the features of allowable claim 4. Thus, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0150655 to Itou; and rejects claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Itou in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0082421 to Yonetsu et al. (Yonetsu). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

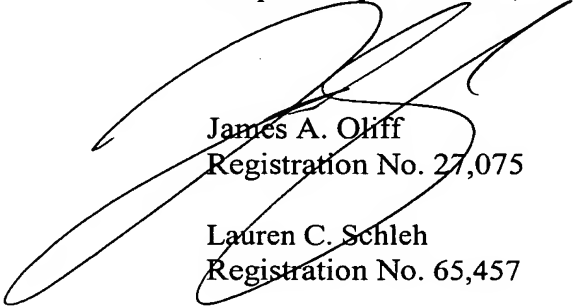
As discussed above, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4, thereby placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. Thus, claims 3, 5-12 and 24-26 depending therefrom are patentable for at least the reasons that independent claim 1 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Claim 2 is canceled, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to this claim moot. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Lauren C. Schleh
Registration No. 65,457

JAO:ETY/rle

Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: June 25, 2010

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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